THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Immediately after assuming office, the Minister reviewed the various programmes and directed senior officials of the Ministry to monitor and implement the various schemes for conservation of environment and control of pollution in an effective manner. The schemes have been formulated keeping in view the observations made by various industries and Non-Governmental Organisations as well as the suggestions received from the State Governments from time to time.

Pollution Control Wing for Industries

1837. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has mooted a proposal to motivate the industries in India to open a pollution control wing attached to their factories in order to minimise the environmental pollution which is gradualy increasing at a rapid stride in the major cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the industry to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) While according environmental clearance to the development projects, the Ministry of Environment & Forests stipulates a number of conditions for safeguarding environment including creation of Environmental Cell and providing of monitoring stations. As promotional measures, the Government has also been encouraging the industries to adopt clean technologies, undertake waste minimisation measures and incorporate Environmental Management System (EMS).

(c) About 15 waste minimisation circles in clusters of small scale industries have so far been established to conserve resources and reduce pollution with the active participation of industries. Besides, more than 25 major companies have so far obtained EMS certification and many others are in the process of adopting EMS.

Degraded forest area in Bihar

1838. SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the total degraded forest area in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the State and Central Government for the regeneration of the degraded forest areas in the State within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of the pollution control plants of Khetri Copper Complex

1839. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution control plants of the Khetri Copper Complex Ltd. Rajasthan are working satisfactisily;

(b) how much money has been spent on the pollution control equipment so far;

(c) whether any central study team has so far visited the complex during the last three years to assess the pollution problem of the area; and

(d) whether any Report in this regard has been submitted to Government; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The pollution control plants of the Khetri Copper Complex are now working satisfactorily.

(b) The Khetri Copper Complex has so far spent an amount of about Rs. 70 crores for installation of pollution control equipment.

(c) and (d) A team from the Central Pollution Control Board visited the plant on 1.3.1994 to assess the pollution problems in the area. The team made certain recommendations regarding the pollution control measures. A notice under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 was also served to the company to comply with the environmental standards within a stipulated time period. Subsequently, the company has taken the necessary pollution control measures, as recommended by the team and are now complying with the prescribed standards.

Proposals for Controlling Forest Related Offices between India and Nepal

1840. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA'
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals to launch Trans-Boundary Construction Board and Indo-Nepal Border Development Programme submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government for controlling the forest related offices between India and Nepal have been considered;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No proposals to launch Trans-Boundary Construction Board and Indo-Nepal Board Development Programme have been submitted to this Ministry by Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest Cover in the Country

1841. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for reduction in the forest cover; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the land under forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The information is contained in the Statement *(See below)*.

(b) The main reasons for reduction of forest cover in the country are increasing demand of forest produce for increasing human and cattle population, shifting cultivation, fire, grazing, illicit cutting, encroachment and lack of required investments in the forestry sector.

(c) Ministry has requested the concerned State/UT Governments to take serious note of the depletion of forest cover and to make an indepth analysis of the factors contributing to the depletion of forest cover, to evolve effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend so as to increase the forest cover in the coming years. Ministry has also requested Planning Commission and all State/UT Governments for increasing the allocation for forestry sector. Major steps taken for proper preservation of forests and forest wealth are:

(i) Afforestation programme are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India;